A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 C07C57/07 C07C C07C45/82 C07C67/48 C07C57/075 C07C45/86 C07C69/533 C07C47/22 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 CO7C Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to daim No. Category 9 1 Α US 4 260 821 A (BENJAMIN BRUCE W) 7 April 1981 (1981-04-07) the whole document Α EP 1 046 416 A (NIPPON CATALYTIC CHEM IND) 1 25 October 2000 (2000-10-25) abstract page 6, line 37-39 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. X Patent family members are listed in annex. \*T\* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention Special categories of cited documents: "A" document delining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance \*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international \*X\* document of particular relevance: the claimed invention filing date cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-\*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed \*8" document member of the same patent family Date of mailing of the international search report Date of the actual completion of the international search 31/03/2004 22 March 2004 Authorized officer Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Delanghe, P Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016



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